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THE SEA, THE SEA!

THE habits of the West Indian land-crab are well known. It is content for the greater part of the year to dwell amongst the mountains of the interior, but at a particular season finds an instinctive and irresistible impulse to visit the sea. Off, therefore, go large hordes in dense column along the country, surmounting all obstacles in their way, and never stopping till they have got into their native element. A similar instinct seems to be implanted by nature in the wives of the human race—that is to say, such of them as ordinarily dwell in the interior—who, though content in autumn, winter, and spring, with their usual habits, no sooner feel the summer air fanning their cheeks, than straight they become animated with a most determined propensity towards the coast, from which it were as vain to attempt to withhold them, as it were to endeavour to turn back the march of the land-crabs, or to essay any other impossibility. If wives were in every respect like land-crabs, could pack as easily, and travel as lightly, and dispense as well with money, we should witness a splendid phenomenon indeed. The whole body would be seen about the beginning of June moving down the country in troops, with their children, taking as little note of milestones, staying as little for rivers or mountains, climbing over houses and villages rather than be put out of their way, and at last plunging into the sea, and there disporting and enjoying themselves like so many Nereids. But the plague is, that human beings, however disposed to travel, cannot go off without a number of curious preliminary ceremonies, neither move along (at least through considerable distances) without some external aid. Here the analogy of our ladies of the interior to the animals in question ceases.

The most important of all the preliminary ceremonies, is the obtaining of the requisite funds. The expense not only of travelling to the coast, but of the necessary accommodations there, must be cared for. This naturally raises a considerable difficulty, and tends to make the migration appear less like the result of a great and wide-spread impulse of instinct, than it would otherwise do. Proper means must be taken with husbands in order to realise the said funds, and sometimes this is a business not to be very easily or very quickly effected. Husbands, strange to say, are never prepared by the expense of one year for the expense of another. Though their wives have gone to marine quarters every year for six or ten in succession, they are never in the least less surprised at the next proposal to do the same thing. Thus the difficulty of getting them to produce the money, is every year as great as ever it was. It is the only thing upon which custom or habit has no effect. Ladies look upon this as a very unfortunate point in the gentleman character, and with good cause; but, as it seems constitutional, or at least quite inveterate, they must just make the best of it. A prudent wife knows that much may be done by judicious preparation. If she begin about the month of March to talk of sea-bathing quarters, the husband will be much less astonished when she makes the serious demand in June or July. His mind must be trained and indurated to the occasion. She must also be very sensible that it will not do to begin all of a sudden to speak of infirmities in her own health or in the health of the children, as reasons for going into marine quarters. That would raise objective suspicions at once. But, if, from time to time during the two months before the proper season, she should occasionally complain on her own account, or deplore on account of the children, the affair will in the long-run appear unimpeachably natural and

right, so that, whether she fail in her object or not, she will at least have been doing all that woman could do to make it succeed. If the winter has brought influenza or any other severe malady into the house, she will of course take care to make the proper use of it. The afflicted may have got well again, but she should always be of opinion that the consequences of it have never altogether been surmounted. A lingering cough in any of the youngsters will be of great use—or a bleared eye, or a general peepiness, or any thing whatever that looks a little out-of-sortishly. It is, upon the whole, a fortunate provision of nature, that no family can ever be altogether so quite well, that some reason for sea-bathing or sea-air may not be found, always supposing that there be ingenuity in looking for it, and a little perseverance in making use of it. It is also a fortunate thing for wives bent on going to the coast, that no man is absolutely proof against being convinced that he is not quite well himself, however well he may be in reality. It is so agreeable to self-love to be told that one is a little ill, and to listen to the anxiety of a fond wife for one's recovery, that a Hercules in the pride of youthful health and vigour, who never knew so much as a headache in his days, could scarcely disallow the imputation. About March, therefore, it will be proper to begin to remark, in the gentleman himself, a paleness, or a want of appetite, or some other error in the system, the result, evidently, of a close town-life and too great application to business. As the season approaches, it must be insinuated that a little relaxation, with change of scene and the sea-air, is absolutely indispensable to him—that, indeed, the proposed removal of the family to the coast is more desirable on his account than on either Jane's or Bobby's. Then the distance is so convenient, and the place so accessible by means of those steamers and omnibuses. He can always at least spend the Saturday afternoon and Sunday with the family, if not (this as it may happen) every evening; and still he will be devoting full attention to business. It will be so pleasant to have walks in the cool evenings along the beach, and occasionally little boating excursions on the water. And the children will be so happy to amuse themselves on the sands with little wooden spades and wheel-barrow, and so delighted to see papa after a whole week's absence. And the whole affair will be of such advantage to him in refreshing both body and mind. He must have the health of a rhinoceros and the heart of a stone, who can resist such coddlings. But nobody can resist them. They are successful with the gentle and the rude alike. Many a bold patriot, who spends his out-of-doors life in denouncing public errors, and seems as if all charming would be lost upon him, whose mind in fact appears capable of no feeling for any thing but what is directly and rigidly useful, would be found, if traced to his home, yielding to such blandishments as these, and led along like a lamb in a string whithersoever his fair one may desire.

The passion or instinct which makes married women rush to the coast, is apt to be manifested in its most intense forms, in cities and large towns, especially towns of business. There are quiet inland places where, though ailments are not wanting, the ladies do not seem to have been inspired with the disposition to take the same advantage of them. Yet in these quiet places there are sometimes found remarkable exceptions from the prevailing character. In a small inland town, some years ago, there lived a brewer's wife, a Mrs Brash, but commonly called Nell Brash, who was quite distinguished among her fellows for the practice she made of every summer proceeding to a certain

seaport, and there enjoying the pleasures of a marine residence for several weeks, invariably without her husband. This honest man was a thin timid person, who thought of nothing but his ale and his barrels, and was glad, for the sake of domestic peace, to allow his wife to do as she pleased. Mrs Nell, on the other hand, was a big broad middle-aged woman in a prodigious printed gown and a vast imitation shawl, whose whole air bespoke a vigorous character, and a resolution, as she went through the world, to live by the way. She was not by any means the only lady in the town who went to the coast, for several others indulged in that recreation occasionally, but she was decidedly the most regular in doing so, and the individual of all others who seemed to make it most a matter of principle. In Nell's case there was no need for taking preliminary measures with the Goodman. It was her own awful will to go to sea-lodgings, and that was enough. Off, accordingly, she went every June, taking with her such a quantity of baggage, that it almost seemed like a removal. When, as sometimes happened, the children of neighbours were entrusted to her charge, as a cheap means of giving them the benefit of sea-bathing, her march from home looked something like a convoy of merchantmen, or a caravan setting out across the Desert. Nell's departure for the sea was quite an event in the summer annals of the town; a thing to be looked forward to and talked of for months; to be gazed at, at the time, as some great phenomenon; and to be the subject of discourse for all the rest of the year. Her set-out was in many respects plain enough, in conformity with the moderate circumstances of her husband; but even in a covered cart, her majestic bright printed gown and grand old face had an impressive effect; while it was evident, from her numberless packages, and the cage of a favourite parrot which always travelled with her, that she was no ordinary person. On one occasion, Nell was, or thought herself, really ill, so that ordinary conveyances would not do. She was therefore constrained to travel by post-chaises, of which no fewer than three were found necessary in twenty-five miles, on account of the crossness of the roads. On this occasion, she had not been two days in the place of her heart, when all the illness and depression of three months was dissipated, and Nell shone out as bright as ever. It was thought, however, by the people of the place, to whom she was as well known as to the people of her own town, that she might not have got well quite so soon, if it had not been to show off at a review of dragoons upon the sands. Nell's system of life, at her marine retreat, displayed nothing of that provisional character which so much marks country lodgings in general. No broken sets of tea-things, no living in double-bedded bed-rooms, no self-service. Her lodging was as fully appointed in every respect as her own house; and she carried on with her neighbours the same interchange of civilities as at home. She paid and received visits, went to and gave parties, and even, it is said, on one occasion got up a kind of rout, to which the officers of a foot regiment quartered in the town were invited. Nell's ordinary habits were entirely of the holiday kind which might be expected. Early in the forenoon, she went to the beach to bathe, and to souse the little girls who had been entrusted to her—a duty which she executed without any compunctious visitings respecting the feelings of the said little girls, some of whom would occasionally be seen flying half undressed along the sands, as hoping to escape the ruthless immersion, but pursued by her tall figure in a dark bathing gown, like black Carr pursuing its victims, and of course invariably caught, and skelped,

and ducked without mercy. This business over, with all its squallings, plashings, and slobberings, she would have herself and all her protégés dressed in proper style, and would then walk out with them on the most public way she could find, where she bore no inapt resemblance to some great fat honest-like clocking hen, followed by her birds. But 'twere long to tell all the hauntings and gallivauntings of this magnificent burgess wife. Hot affairs of tea and toast concluded days of gypseying and junketing; and it was rarely that she did not make up at least one match during her month's stay. Nell, alas, is now no more, and never can a certain sea-side village in Lothian know a more august or more welcome visitant.

After all, the women are in the right (when are they in the wrong?) about this same periodical migration to the sea-side. The ordinary current of busy life in large towns is too monotonous to be healthy or right; and it is well that the ladies contrive, by this instinct of theirs, to break it up a little, and fret it with something of variety. If it depended upon the force of reason alone that city-pent men should take the air and exercise necessary for health, it would be taken by very few, and the worst consequences might be looked for. But, thanks to this instinctive proclivity of the fair sex towards the coast towns, it is not left to reason. Willing or unwilling, fairly or unfairly, the ordinary system of the counting-house and the domestic board is annually deranged, and the men are compelled to take many long excursions which they never would otherwise take, and which cannot fail to prove highly beneficial to them. This is a point which might be further illustrated, and we would endeavour to do so, if we thought there was the least necessity for it. But the male part of creation need no such persuasives. It is a matter which may be safely left in the hands of their spouses.

POPULAR INFORMATION ON SCIENCE.

SECOND AGE OF ANIMAL LIFE.

IN the article entitled *First Forms of Animal and Vegetable Life*,* it was shown that these, as far as we are informed by geological research, came into existence at the time when the grawacke series of rocks was in the course of being formed—a period in the earth's history when the surface would appear to have consisted of great masses of the primitive granite, interspersed with deep seas, in which the detritus or worn-away matter of the granite was perpetually forming new rocks. In those seas, vast multitudes of shell-fish, sea-weeds, zoophytes, and a few fishes, appear to have existed, while on the land there were a few simple plants; but as yet the world was not prepared for the reception of any higher classes of creatures, either animal or vegetable. Such was the state of the animated or organic world for many ages, during which rocks of new kinds were in the course of being formed. No advance is made in the animal creation till we arrive at a particular point in the series of alternate coal and limestone beds, which forms so large a portion of the stratified or sedimentary rocks. This point occurs immediately after the deposit of a species of limestone denominated the Zechstein. In another variety of limestone, styled the Muschelkalk (shell-limestone), we receive assurance that, at this era of geological chronology, "circumstances had arisen changing the character of marine life over certain portions of Europe; that certain animals abounding previously, and for a great length of time, disappeared never to reappear, at least as far as we can judge from our knowledge of organic remains;† and that certain new forms of a very remarkable kind were added.

The new creatures were of such a class as we might expect to be the first added to the few specimens of fish which had hitherto existed: they were of the class of Reptiles, creatures whose organisation places them next in the scale of creation to fish, but yet below the higher class of animals which bring forth their young alive and nourish them by suck (mammalia). The earth was as yet only fit to be a partial habitation to creatures breathing its atmosphere and living upon its productions. It is supposed to have been under so high a temperature as to be unsuitable for mammalia: the lands which existed were probably low and marshy, with a hot moist atmosphere, so as to present an appropriate field of existence only for lizards, crocodiles, and creatures of similar character. It is also to be supposed that the land was at this period undergoing frequent changes

and convulsions, so that only a class of creatures to which submersions and deluges were matters of indifference, could reside upon it without a greater waste of life than was part of the Great General Design. The Reptiles, which first begin to appear in the Shell-Limestone, continued to flourish while a great succession of other rocks was forming: throughout the whole of what geologists call the Secondary Formation, there were few other land animals. In fact, the world must have been in the possession of reptiles for a many thousand times longer period than it appears to have yet been in the possession of man. "When we see," says Dr Buckland, "that so large and important a range has been assigned to reptiles among the former population of our planet, we cannot but regard with feelings of new and unusual interest, the comparatively diminutive existing orders of that most ancient family of quadrupeds, with the very name of which we usually associate a sentiment of disgust. We shall view them with less contempt, when we learn, from the records of geological history, that there was a time when reptiles not only constituted the chief tenants and most powerful possessors of the earth, but extended their dominion also over the waters of the sea; and that the annals of their history may be traced back through thousands of years antecedent to that latest point in the progressive stages of animal creation, when the first parents of the human race were called into existence.*

The Reptiles of this early age were peculiar both in size and in structure. Some, which inhabited the seas, resembled lizards, but were of gigantic size; others, designed for land as well as sea, resembled the crocodiles which still exist in warm climates.

One of the most remarkable kinds (genera) has received the name of *Ichthyosaurus* (Fish Lizard), of which seven species or varieties have been discovered. The head is like that of the crocodile, composed of two long slender jaws, provided with a great number of teeth (in some cases, a hundred and eighty), and eyes of great size (in one instance, the cavity for the eye has been found to measure fourteen inches), while the nostril, instead of being near the snout, as in the crocodile, was near the anterior angle of the eye. The body was fish-like, arranged upon a long spinal column, which consisted of more than a hundred joints, and to which a series of slender ribs was attached, terminating in a long and broad tail, which must have possessed great strength. The whole length of some specimens of the *Ichthyosaurus* was about thirty feet. Instead of the feet, with which the lizard and crocodile are furnished, the *Ichthyosaurus* had four paddles like those of the whale tribes, fitting it to move through the water in the manner of those animals. It had also a construction of the sternum or breast-arch, and of the fore paddles, similar to that found in the *Ornithorhynchus*, an aquatic quadruped of New Holland, and evidently designed, as in the case of that animal, to enable it to descend to the bottoms of waters in search of food. While the *Ichthyosaurus*, then, is mainly allied to the lizard tribes, it combined in itself the additional characters of the fish, the whale, and the *Ornithorhynchus*. "As the form of vertebrae by which it is associated with the class of fishes, seems to have been introduced for the purpose of giving rapid motion in the water to a lizard inhabiting the element of fishes, so the further adoption of a structure in the legs, resembling the paddles of a whale, was superadded, in order to convert these extremities into powerful fins. The still further addition of a furcula and clavicles, like those of the *Ornithorhynchus*, offers a third and not less striking example of selection of contrivances, to enable animals of one class to live in the element of another class.†" Such deviations cannot be considered as monstrosities; they are perfect adaptations of a creature to its purposes in the theatre of being. Only the spine of the *Ichthyosaurus* as yet existed in other animals. Its head, its paddles, and its breast-arch, were all detached parts of future animals. How strange to reflect, that some of these contrivances were allowed to become extinct, and, as it were, lost to nature, and ultimately, after a long interval, were revived in connection with new creatures!

The internal structure and the modes of living of the *Ichthyosaurus* have been, in a most unexpected manner, made clear by the discovery of the half-digested remains of animals found within them, or in their neighbourhood. It appears that the creature possessed a large stomach, extending throughout nearly its whole body, and that it lived upon fish and other reptiles, including its own kind. It must have occasionally devoured creatures several feet in length. Masses of the refuse of the *Ichthyosaurus*, petrified as hard as the finest marble, and well known to geologists under the name of *coprolites*, are found to be marked spirally, like the refuse of certain species of sharks and dog-fish, the intestinal gut of which winds greatly, in order that it may take up the least possible room. We thus obtain a distinct idea of the nature of a very important part of the bodily economy of this long extinct race of animals. The stomach occupied so large a space in their bodies, for the reception of large quantities of food, and it was at the same time so necessary that the speed of the animal in pursuit of prey should not be clogged by a very large or long body, that the smaller intestines had been, by a wise arrangement of nature, reduced nearly to the state of a flattened tube, coiled

like a cork-screw around itself; "their bulk being thus diminished," says Buckland, "while the amount of absorbing surface remained nearly the same as they had been circular."

The name *Plesiosaurus* is applied to another highly remarkable reptile of gigantic size, which inhabited the world before the days of mammalia. A particular species has been described as having a body and paddles which bore some resemblance to those of the *Ichthyosaurus*, the former being more bulky, and the latter longer and more powerful. At the end of a long neck, like the body of a serpent, was a head resembling that of a lizard, but also partaking of the character of the head of the crocodile and *Ichthyosaurus*. The tail was short. The backbone of this creature, like the neck and tail continuing it, contained in all about ninety vertebral pieces, thirty-three of which composed the neck; and the vertebrae are found to be of a fish-like structure than those of the *Ichthyosaurus*, and not nearly so well calculated for rapid motion. The ribs describe a large circle, and, being formed of four parts, seem to have been designed to contain a capacious set of lungs, and to rise and fall as the lungs were inflated or emptied: in this respect they resembled the ribs of the chameleon, whose changes of colour are now known to be occasioned by the varied depth of its inspirations. It is therefore surmised, though with little confidence, that the *Plesiosaurus* was also capable of changing its colour—a power which must have been highly necessary to a creature of its unwieldy character, both to enable it to elude the quicker and equal voracious *Ichthyosaurus*, and that it might more readily ensnare and seize the creatures designed to be its prey. The *Plesiosaurus* probably lived chiefly on or near the surface of the water, breathing the air, and doubling for prey like a duck or swan, but might also be able to descend to the bottom, and even to move, though awkwardly, upon land. One part of its organisation is peculiarly striking, as fore-shadowing a structure of a more important kind. The paddles, which may be considered an advance or improvement upon the fins of fishes, are at the same time the type of the limbs of quadrupeds and of the arms and limbs of man. The fore-paddle consists of scapula (shoulder blade), humerus (shoulder), ulna (upper bone), and radius (lower bone), succeeded by the bones of the carpus and metacarpus and the phalanges, equivalent to those which compose the palm and fingers of a human being. The hind-paddle presents femur, tibia, and fibula, succeeded by the bones of the tarsus and metatarsus and five toes. Thus "even our own bodies, and some of their most important organs, are brought into direct and direct comparison with those of reptiles, which first sight appear the most monstrous productions of creation; and in the very hands and fingers with which we write their history, we recognise the type of the paddles of the *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus*."

Of the Crocodile family found in abundance in the class of rocks, the *Iguanodon*, of which remains have been found in the fresh-water formation at Walsley in England, may be cited as a specimen. It was a huge animal, resembling the present *Iguana* of South America, which chiefly lives upon plants and seeds. The smallest part of the thigh-bone of an *Iguanodon* was found to be twenty-two inches in circumference, and much larger than that of any existing elephant. Species resembling the present *Gavial* of the Ganges have also been found. It may fairly be inferred from the present habits of the *Gavial* and other kinds of Crocodiles, that, at the time when the extinct species flourished, the world must have contained many low shores and savannahs, fitted for the residence of such creatures. Some parts of England are thus proved to have had at one time shores of lakes and estuaries resembling those of the Ganges, the Nile, and other waters in hot countries, and consequently a much higher temperature than at present.

But perhaps the greatest wonder of the Reptile Age was the creature called the *Pterodactyle*. Mainly a reptile of the lizard kind, its body possessed some of the characteristics of the mammalia; it had the wings of a bat, the neck of a bird, and a head furnished with long jaws full of teeth, so that in this last part of its organisation it bore some resemblance to the crocodile. Eight species of the *Pterodactyle* which have been found, vary from the size of a snipe to that of a cock-mountain. The eyes were of enormous size, apparently enabling it to fly by night. From the wings projected fingers, terminated by long hooks, like the curved claws on the thumb of the bat. These must have formed a powerful paw, wherewith the animal was enabled to creep or climb, or suspend itself from trees. It has been conjectured that the *Pterodactyle* would chiefly live on flying insects, of which, it is important to notice, several varieties existed at the same time, their remains being found in the same rocks. And it is likely, from the size of the eyes, that it searched for prey by night as well as by day. But it has also been argued, from the great length and strength of the jaws, and the length of the neck, that the *Pterodactyle* did not live solely upon flies, but likewise sought for fish in the manner of our own present sea-birds.

Tortoises also existed during this age, as is proved by the marks of their feet on sheets of sandstone, and by their remains. But as yet no animals of a higher class had appeared upon earth—for the remains of certain creatures of the *Opossum* family, found in the oolite at Stonesfield, near Oxford, stand as yet so solitary

* In No. 264.

† De la Beche's Manual, 405.

* Bridgewater Treatise, I. 167.

† Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise, I. 168.

* Buckland, I. 213.

that we cannot consider them as proving that animals were added to reptiles. With, then, flocks of Pterodactyles flying in the air in pursuit of huge fish; gigantic crocodiles and tortoises crawling about the jungles of low, moist, and warm shores; and such monsters as the Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus swarming on the surface of the sea, while the waters were peopled by infinite varieties of fish, shelled and unshelled; we can form some faint idea of what the world it was while the strata between the coal and the chalk were in the course of being deposited. Our next article will introduce some of the wonders of the next great era in geological chronology.

STORY OF ENGLISH COUNTRY-TOWN LIFE.

All English country towns there are to be seen per-
haps more than the required number of small tailors' shops, usually formed by some diminutive bay window, in which, while a muslin curtain conceals the and the operative from view, there are seen displayed a few antiquated and rather dilapidated pattern-books; the faded lustre of the cloth, velvet, or other articles, being relieved by the brilliant hues of a crimson or two, flowering with the luxuriance with which these beautiful plants always do flower in the dwellings of the poor.

Such was the humble abode of Jonathan Hammond, a pains-taking industrious tailor, who usually ranked amongst his neighbours in Brook-Ribley as a worthy person of small capacity, and who, by dint of drawing, patching, darning, and turning, for himself attained to the dignity of cutting out and making a new suit, continued to maintain himself and his family in decent respectability. Notwithstanding his low estate, and the humility of his disposition, Jonathan Hammond entertained more lofty views for his son, than he had ever indulged for himself. He had felt the want of education, and he determined to gain every nerve to give his child the advantage which he had never possessed. His own knowledge of the art he practised was of so limited a nature, that he appeared to be little use in teaching it to his son, while, as his custom was rather on the wane, there seemed to be small chance of obtaining employment for both. Accordingly, the boy was sent to the best day-school in the town which came within the narrow means of his parents, who often cheerfully sustained privations in order that he might reap the benefit of their self-denial. The tailor had been fortunate in the choice of a wife, his helpmate being a quick-spirited, kind-hearted woman, and, moreover, one of nature's gentlewomen; her amiable disposition applying those courtesies of manner which the highest breeding does not always confer. Their home was a scene of peace; and though, in talking over their lot, some wishes might be expressed for a greater abundance of the good things of this life, nothing akin to discontent could be detected, while both parents never missed any opportunity of inculcating the best principles in the mind of their only child. How happily they passed their Sundays, always scrupulously clean and neat! On that day they put on their best apparel, deriving gratification from their attendance at divine service, from their frugal meal, distinguished from the requests of the week by some unwonted luxury, and from their walk in the country.

When Jonathan the younger had arrived at a proper age to enter on the duties of a profession, his father, to whom his success in life had been an object of great solicitude, determined to take him in his hand, and present him to a personage for whom he himself entertained the most profound respect. This was no other than Mr Burrigge, the woollen-drafter, there being only one at that time in the town. It was very natural that Hammond should think highly of the master of an establishment which conferred to his mind an exalted idea of wealth and respectability. He had, when purchasing the modicum of cloth required for the jacket and trousers of some little boy, with whose holiday suit he had been entrusted, looked at the huge bales which surrounded him, with admiring eyes; and during his patient attendance, while more importunate customers were served, he saw so much money go into the till, that he could scarcely calculate the extent of resources which seemed inexhaustible. Mr Burrigge was pleased with the simplicity and honesty of a person who, but for the modesty of his deportment, might have passed unnoticed; he at this time wanted an apprentice, and he generously offered to take the boy with the premium which his father had scraped together, but which fell very far short of that usually obtained by a young tradesman like Mr Burrigge. The happy parent believed that his son's fortune was made, and it was.

Young Jonathan, a steady, sensible boy, toiled through his seven years with satisfaction to his employer, and advantage to himself. Though clothed in homely language, the self-evident truths which formed the essence of his father's wisdom, had made a deep impression on a mind naturally well disposed. The early lessons of the good old man were of the highest importance, since they taught him the value of exemplary conduct, and patience and perseverance in the pursuit of independence. When his apprenticeship was out, he was engaged at a fair salary as a shopman, and his attention to business, and his zeal for the interests of his master, gained him the confidence which it merited; and Mr Burrigge now began to relax from the toils of business, and to indulge more frequently at the club at which he delighted to spend his evenings; and growing less and less inclined to burthen himself with the cares of the establishment, he determined to give his faithful assistant a small share in the firm. To the elder Hammond this extraordinary piece of good fortune realised every hope he had dared to form; but his son, more ambitious, and more adventurous, saw in it but the stepping-stone to future greatness. In this life, however, there is always a mixture of good and evil, and he had to sustain a struggle between inclination and worldly advantage, which certainly disturbed the equanimity of his mind. During his apprenticeship, a young person had come to live with his parents, who, taken at first out of charity, had by her dexterity in the use of the needle earned a comfortable subsistence by dress-making. It was the secret wish of his mother's heart to see her son united to this girl, and Jonathan was deeply impressed by her beauty and gentleness; he had not, however, committed himself beyond those attentions which win a woman's affections, but which give her no claim upon the person who offers them. Mr Burrigge, who had grown very stout since he had lost the strong motive for activity, died suddenly, and his property became the inheritance of an only daughter, with whom Jonathan had not been brought much into contact before. The young lady was lame, sickly, of age, and her own mistress, having lost her mother some years previously; and it became soon manifest that she would gladly bestow herself and her fortune upon her father's partner. Who can doubt the result? A marriage took place, which fell like a thunderbolt upon three persons. The elder Hammond and his wife, in their simplicity, never dreamed of such a result, and, though rejoicing at the prosperity of their son's career, lost a part of their happiness in sorrowing for the poor young creature whom they had hoped to have seen his wife. She suffered deeply, though silently; but her faithless lover, for such he might be called, becoming a widower before he had learned to think low a folly, offered himself to the object of his early affections.

This second marriage of our prosperous hero was quite as much talked about in the town as the first had been, especially by those who were of opinion that the bridegroom might have done better. It was, however, productive of great happiness, and soon afterwards a circumstance occurred which opened new prospects to the younger Hammond. Hitherto he had been content to plod on, as his predecessor had done before him, accumulating small profits; but a contested election which took place in the town, showed that a great deal more might be done. Sir William Grandison, an old baronet in the neighbourhood, offered himself as a candidate on the liberal side, and was warmly supported by the commercial portion of the town. He owed his return chiefly to the instrumentality of our friend the woollen-drafter, who now for the first time perceived his own importance; and, following up the advantages which he had gained, added the business of banking to the old establishment. At first he contented himself with enlarging and beautifying the house occupied by his predecessor, but after a time it became unsuitable to his increasing wealth, and he built another in a more fashionable part of the town. Meanwhile the elder Jonathan could not be prevailed upon to quit the humble residence in which he had spent so many happy years. The pattern-books were withdrawn from the window, but the muslin curtain was retained; and, indulging in a taste for reading, which grew upon him in his old age, he spent the remainder of his existence in the enjoyment of every blessing that this life could afford. His son, though his ambition had impelled him to marry the first time for money, possessed not that foolish pride which renders some people ashamed of the humility of their origin. He delighted to survey the comforts with which he had invested the scene of his birth; and while he would gladly have given his parents a better residence, he felt great pleasure in revisiting an abode endeared to him by many recollections. Proud of having carved out his own fortune, and aspiring to rise still higher in the world, he kept on advancing, without troubling himself about the envious feelings he might create. The banker's second marriage was blessed with a son and daughter—lovely children, who grew up to be justly the pride of their parents. Of course the people of Brook-Ribley talked over the extraordinary good luck of the son of old Hammond the tailor, those especially who were going down in the world, or who were troubled at having their dignities invaded by a person whom they chose to call an upstart, but they could not deny that Ellen Hammond was a very elegant young woman, and that her brother Arthur

outshone all the beaux of the place. These young people owed much to their mother, who, though little indebted to education, possessed keener sensibility than her husband, and did not attach so much importance to mere wealth, as to the maxims of their good old grandfather. The first misfortune which befell the family was occasioned by the death of Mrs Jonathan Hammond. The education of her daughter had been completed, and Ellen was able to take charge of her father's house when this event happened; and the grief of the widower proved so deep and lasting, that it was confidently asserted that he would not think of marrying again. During a considerable period, the Grandison and Hammond families had been upon intimate terms, the overtures in the first instance having been made by Sir William, who had brought his daughters with him to Singleton, and left them at the banker's house while he transacted any business he might have in the town. The young people were invited to the Priory in return. How delightful was it to roam through the park and pleasure-grounds of this fine old place, and how happy were the juvenile party together, forgetful of, or unacquainted with, the disparity of their rank and station, charmed with each other's society, and dreaming of nothing that could occur to interrupt their pleasures. William Grandison was five years older than Ellen Hammond, a difference in age which gave him a right to assume a chivalric air, and to offer his protection to the young lady in all services of danger, such as crossing brooks or encountering cattle. Ellen on her return home was apt to contrast the elegance of his manners with the rudeness which she sometimes experienced from others of her acquaintance, while Arthur's intimacy with young Grandison gave him all the advantages which can be gained by early association with those who are not only well born, but well bred, and who cultivate their talents with a full conviction of the necessity of mental exertion. Sir William, notwithstanding the liberal principles which he professed, had no intention of illustrating them by practice; yet he did not perceive any danger in permitting the intimacy of the young people. He concluded that his heir would see the advantage of strengthening his position in the county by a suitable alliance, and he expected that his daughter would look up to the best matches in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile a splendid style of living, together with two or three contested elections, coming fast upon each other, weakened resources which had never been quite adequate to the establishments in town and country kept up by the baronet, who at length found himself at a loss to raise money upon estates already encumbered with mortgages nearly equal to their value. This state of affairs, and a conversation with his eldest son, which it was said ended unsatisfactorily to both parties, induced him to shut up the Priory, and to spend the recess with his family upon the Continent.

In order, perhaps, to show that amiability of manner does not characterise all the children of the same parents, Mrs Penmore, a widowed sister of Sir William Grandison's, came at this period to reside in a house belonging to her brother in Brook-Ribley; she had been left by her husband, who held an appointment under government, in rather narrow circumstances, and her income, together with that, still more slender, of a younger sister, who had remained a spinster, it was said much against her will, only sufficed to afford them those small dignities which are attainable in a provincial town. Mrs Penmore on her arrival had determined to be very select in her acquaintance, and therefore speedily informed herself of the birth, origin, and pedigree, as well as the life, character, and behaviour, of the people with whom she might be expected to associate. With the illiberality of a weak and ill-cultivated mind, she imbibed a strong prejudice against "those Hammonds" who had made themselves of so much importance in the town, and declared at first her determination not to be civil to them. Miss Grandison, though far from young, was several years the junior of her widowed sister, and, long accustomed to control, had dwined into the humble echo of her sentiments, not daring to maintain a different opinion, and scarcely daring to entertain one even in secret. Her disposition was much more kind and conciliatory, but she had from long tutoring acquired somewhat of the stately manners which characterised Mrs Penmore, and was at first considered equally disagreeable. Unaccustomed to think or act for herself, she supposed that she really coincided with the views of her sister, and it was only upon some great and rare occasion that she ever ventured to employ her own judgment. Miss Grandison, though in a manner compelled to relinquish the hope of settling in life, had never abandoned the wish of becoming the mistress of a family.

Before these ladies had been able to promulgate their determination not to associate with any persons who were unable to compete with them in birth, they received a visit from Mr and Miss Hammond, who, kindly anxious to pay attention to the relative of their friend Sir William, made their appearance as early as possible at the house of his sister. Mrs Penmore, taken by surprise, and astonished at the easy independent manner of the banker, who seemed to entertain a very tolerable idea of his own importance, and to look with a patronising air upon two decayed gentlewomen, was quite agast, while Miss Grandison, struck by the good looks and open-heartedness of one of the guests, and the beauty and elegance of the other, yet aware at the same time of her sister's horror of people who had risen

from nothing, did not know how to behave. The Hammonds, happily unconscious of the dilemma in which the ladies found themselves, said and did every thing that they thought kind and proper to two very forlorn strangers, who, they had reason to believe, must be suffering very severely on account of the pecuniary embarrassments, now no secret, of their near relative. Mr Hammond had yet to learn the impervious nature of the panoply of pride. While he sat pitying the condition of the reduced widow lady, and determining in his own mind to do every thing in his power to render her abode at Brook-Ribley agreeable to her, she felt utterly astonished at the futility of her attempts to overawe and to impress him with a proper notion of his own insignificance. They parted with a hearty shake of the hand, which was submitted to, rather than acknowledged, by Mrs Penmore; while the banker, stepping into the carriage after his daughter, remarked, that he had seldom seen a more starched, crabbed old woman than his friend the baronet's sister, and that she had evidently mixed in very bad society, and had seen nothing of the world. Meantime Mrs Penmore was apologising to her sister for the condescension into which she had been unduly betrayed, observing, that as Mr Hammond was her brother's man of business, she supposed that they must be civil to them. In this decision Miss Grandison cordially coincided, but she was obliged to restrain the expressions of admiration elicited by the appearance and the manners of their visitors, and to be silent when the stately dame lamented to her intimate friends, elderly females of unblemished descent, the misfortunes of the times, which obliged her, in order to keep up dear Sir William's interest in the borough, to associate with people who, she understood, were shockingly low in their connections.

Family pride assorts ill with family poverty. Notwithstanding Mrs Penmore's ideas of keeping up the feudal dignity of her family, she was constrained to be not only civil, but apparently friendly with Mr Hammond, for she well knew that her brother could not do without him. She therefore accepted of invitations to Mr Hammond's house, and could not hinder attentions being paid to her sister by its possessor. As for Miss Grandison, she was secretly delighted with the Hammonds, and for a reason which will speedily appear. The banker, it has to be told, had been reconciled to his daughter's refusal of several excellent offers, in consequence of his dread of being left alone, but still it did not enter into his calculations to marry again, until the idea of attaching himself to Miss Grandison occurred. What was to be done? There seemed to be no possible objection to the match; so he spoke to Ellen, who, somewhat to her father's surprise—for, good easy man, he knew nothing of the why's and the wherefore's—warmly approved of the choice which he thought of making, for he could not be said to have made it; and at the interview which ensued with Miss Grandison, he offered himself to her acceptance, and proved a most successful suitor.

The awful part of this interesting affair was to come. How could the betrothed bride venture to acquaint her sister with the bold step which she had taken? On her return home, she found Mrs Penmore engaged with a few particular friends, who had just stepped in to tea, and they observed that there was something exceedingly strange and out of the way in the manner of Miss Grandison, who was continually being scolded by the precise widow for putting the sugar into the tea-pot, and pouring the coffee over the toast. The only gentleman who was present, deeming it incumbent upon him to show some chivalric spirit upon the occasion, defended the poor lady from the assaults of her elder sister; and when the company departed, Mrs Penmore, who by no means approved of her receiving any attention from any body, told her that she supposed that she had got some folly into her head, in consequence of the civilities which had been paid her, and which were shown out of respect to a person whose manners and conduct she would do well to imitate more closely. Miss Grandison interrupted this harangue, which otherwise would have lasted until midnight, by declaring boldly that she was going to be married, and to Mr Hammond. Mrs Penmore was for a moment struck dumb; she turned quite blue in the face; and then, by a strong effort arousing herself to the contest, commenced a strain of invective, which she verily hoped would change the settled purpose of her sister's soul; but it was cut short by the party to whom it was addressed, who, seizing a candlestick, walked with unwonted dignity out of the room. The amazed widow sat up the whole of the night to write long letters to her brother and her nephew. From the former she received no reply; he had too much good sense not to see the folly of interference; and the latter wrote to say, that he thought it an excellent match for his aunt, and should certainly come down to the wedding.

Mrs Penmore was vexed beyond endurance at the result of her interference, but it was not convenient for her to leave Brook-Ribley, neither could she turn her sister out of a house to which she had an equal right; her only alternative therefore was to be indisposed, and keep her room. She had the horror of hearing that the bride elect had been introduced to the father and mother of her intended husband, namely, the old tailor and his wife, and that she had gone to drink tea with them. The whole family met on this occasion; and though some natural tears were shed by Ellen and her grandmother, as they thought of the beloved

predecessor who had found a grave too early, yet was the meeting a happy one.

Of course the union of the Grandisons and Hammonds was much canvassed over Brook-Ribley; and while eliciting many envious and ill-natured comments, unprejudiced persons agreed that it was a very good match for both parties. Sir William Grandison showed, that if he ever had been averse, he speedily became reconciled to it; for he shortly afterwards gave his full consent to the union of his son with Ellen, and young Hammond, who is making a figure in Parliament, is talked of as the accepted of Julia Grandison.

NECESSITY OF AMUSEMENT.

OUR readers must in general be well aware of the opinions we entertain on the subject of amusement—namely, that men *will* have amusement of some kind or other, innocent if possible, but by all means amusement; and that much of the intemperance and profligacy which exist, is the result of there being no legitimate means of amusement provided for the great bulk of the people. Our views, we believe, are not yet generally supported; but we have no doubt that, ere long, they will be extensively adopted and acted upon. It gives us much pleasure in the mean time to find the same philosophy advocated in such respectable quarters as those we are about to quote. At the annual general meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institution of Manchester, February 25, 1837, the philanthropic president, Mr Benjamin Heywood, in taking into consideration the best means of rendering the institution more attractive, delivered himself as follows:—

"The great point, I am convinced, is to combine more of what will be felt as relaxation and amusement with our communication of knowledge. After a day of hard work, a man wants refreshment and ease. I would urge the directors who are this evening to be appointed, to let this be one of the earliest subjects of their consideration; to think, for example, whether there might not be occasional popular exhibitions in our lecture-room; whether a collection, embracing objects of natural history, works of art, and mechanical contrivance, might not be established within our walls, and be always open to our members—whether social evening parties, with tea or coffee, might not be more encouraged among you. I am, more than ever, impressed with the importance of providing suitable places of amusement for the working classes. They might, I am persuaded, be made a most effectual means of breaking down habits of intemperance and sensuality, and opening the way to moral and intellectual improvement. I should like to see, in Manchester, a large building specially appropriated to this purpose. I would have in it a coffee-room and a news-room: I would have music, vocal and instrumental: I would have exhibitions of various kinds, for instance, phantasmagoria, magic lantern, oxyhydrogen microscope, &c.; and, if properly restricted and superintended, though, by no means, as they are conducted now, I think theatrical representations might be added with advantage. It should be a place to which men and women could resort after their day's or week's work, and always find 'good and cheap entertainment.' I am much mistaken if, under judicious regulation, an early effect of this would not be to thin the public houses on a Saturday night, and increase the attendance on public worship on Sunday. I wish the experiment could, in some degree, be made. If any clever and spirited men among you (and I know many such) were disposed to undertake the setting on foot of such a thing, I should delight to contribute to protect them from pecuniary loss. On this subject of popular amusements I am tempted, if you will bear with me for a few minutes, to read to you some observations of an American writer—a man of sincere piety and active benevolence, and earnestly desiring to raise the moral and intellectual character of his countrymen. The Rev. Orville Dewey, in his recently published work, 'The Old World and the New,' says, in reference to his own country:—

"There is another view in which the subject of amusements, light as it may be thought, goes deep into all questions about our national improvement and happiness. We are making great efforts in America to bring about various moral reforms. At the head of these enterprises stands the temperance reformation. And the public attention, as was natural in the appalling circumstances of the case, has been very much occupied with the immediate evil, and the obvious methods of supplying the remedy. But it seems to me that it is time to go deeper into this matter, and to inquire how the reform is to be carried on and sustained in the country. 'By embodying the entire nation in a temperance society,' will it be said? I think not, even if that point could be gained. We must have some stronger bond than that of formal association, some stronger provision than that of temporary habit to rely on. We must lay the foundations of permanent reform in the principles of human nature, and in the very frame-work of society. Suppose that this nation, and every individual in it, were now temperate, how are they to be kept so? The zeal of individuals in this cause will die away; the individuals themselves will die; how is the people, supposing it were made temperate, to be kept so? There was a

time, in former days, when our people were all temperate—when a small bottle of strong waters sufficed for a whole army—when, that is to say, ardent spirits were used only as a medicine. Why, from those early days of pristine virtue and rigid piety, did the nation fall away into intemperance? And how, I ask again, are we to expect to stand, where our fathers fell?

In answer to this question, let me observe, that there is in human nature, and never to be rooted out of it, a want of excitement and exhilaration. The cares and labours of life often leave the mind dull, and when it is relieved from them—and it *must* be relieved—let this be remembered—there must be seasons of relief; and the question is, how are these seasons to be filled up? When the mind enjoys relief from its occupations, I say, that relief must come in the shape of something cheering and exhilarating. The man cannot sit down dull and stupid—and he ought not. Now, suppose that society provides him with no cheerful or attractive recreations; that society, in fact, frowns upon all amusements; that the importunate spirit in business, and the sanctimonious spirit in religion, and the supercilious spirit in fashion, all unite to discourage popular sports and spectacles; and thus, that all cheap and free enjoyments, the hale, hearty, holiday recreations are out of use, and out of reach—what now will the man, set free from business or labour, be likely to do? He asks for relief and exhilaration, he asks for escape from his cares and anxieties: society in its arrangements offers him none; the tavern and the ale-house propose to supply the want; what is likely as that he will resort to the tavern and the ale-house? I have no doubt that one reason why our country fell into such unusual intemperance, was the want of simple, innocent, and authorised recreations in it. I am fully persuaded that some measure of this sort is needful, to give a natural and stable character to the temperance reform.

"The reason why the French are not temperate, is not, as is commonly thought, that their only drink is wine. They have brandy, and it is every where drunk, but usually in moderation. And the reason of this is partly to be found, I believe, in their cheerfulness, in their sports and spectacles, in the resorts every where provided for simple entertainment.

"It was remarked, during the Peninsular war, that the German soldiers, who had a variety of amusements, were never drunk on duty, while the great difficulty was to keep an English soldier from the wine house. The Germans are naturally as heavy a people as ourselves; they were once notorious for their deep potations. They are now comparatively sober. In every village are to be found music clubs. The song and the dance are frequent. But no people are more careful or industrious than the Germans.

"Let it not be said, as if it were a fair reply to all this, that men are temperate in the midst of their recreations. The question is not what they do, with their vicious habits already acquired, but how they came by these habits; and the question again is not, whether a man may not fall into inebriety, amidst the purest recreations as well as when away from them, but what he is *likely* to do. In short, to do justice to the argument, it should be supposed that a people is perfectly temperate, and then may fairly be considered the question, how it is most likely to be kept so. It is certain that there is no natural appetite for spirituous drinks; but for sports and spectacles, for music and dancing, for games and theatrical representations, there is a natural inclination; and an inclination which, though often perverted, must be allowed, in the original elements, to be perfectly innocent—as innocent as the sportiveness of a child, or its love of beautiful colours and fine shows. But grant that the tendencies to intemperance were equally natural and strong; yet, I say, if there were among any people authorised holidays, and holiday sports—if there were evening assemblies, and a pure theatre—if there were in every village a public promenade, where music might frequently be heard in the evening—would not these places be likely to draw away many from the resorts of intemperance? I confess, when I have seen, of other nations, tens and hundreds of thousands abroad in the public places, without any rudeness or riot among them, without one single indication of inebriety in all the crowd; when I have seen this again and again, day after day, I have asked what there is to prevent our own more intelligent people from conducting themselves with similar propriety. In seven months upon the Continent of Europe, although living amidst crowds—though living in taverns, in hotels, and in public-houses, I have not seen four intoxicated persons! But I have frequently seen in parks, and gardens, and places of public assembly, millions of persons, exhilarated by music, by spectacles, by scenery, flowers, and fragrance, cheerful without rudeness, and gay without excess. There are moralists and preachers among us, who tell us that we enjoy great advantages in our freedom from European amusements; but I very much doubt it.

"But it may be said, and probably will, by some, 'We are afraid of holidays; we do not quite like to have this language of patronage and indulgence extended to amusements; the world is thoughtless enough and bad enough already; the human passions are out-running all control in every direction; restraint, restraint, is what mankind want in every thing!' Really, I must beg that those who undertake to speak on this subject, would give us something besides their vague impressions and inapplicable sug-

positions. Let them take some decided ground; let them tell us what they would have. Men cannot labour or do business always. They must have intervals of relaxation. What is to be done with these intervals? This is the question, and it is a question to be soberly answered. It is to be met, I repeat, with answers, and not with surmises of danger. Men cannot sleep through these intervals. What are they to do? Why, if they do not work, or sleep, they must have recreation. And if they have not recreation from healthful sources, they will be very likely to take it from the poisoned fountains of intemperance. Or, if they have pleasures which, though innocent, are forbidden by the maxims of public morality, their very pleasures are liable to become poisoned fountains. Is it possible to resist these conclusions?

Another point to which I have alluded, is the more direct communication of moral instruction in our lectures. I fear there has been no corresponding increase in the means of improving the physical and moral condition of the people. Too large a portion of that mass of labouring population, in the midst of which we live, is in a state of comparative ignorance: excess and intemperance are too prevalent, and there is not that friendly feeling and confidence between the masters and their men which ought to exist. How are we to oppose these evils? By rightly educating the people; by enlightening them upon their true interests; by the promotion of more friendly intercourse between the different classes; in short, in no small degree, by the extension and right application of Mechanics' Institutions, which ought to be, to the working man, fountains pure and sparkling, ever open to him, and ever offering him refreshment and improvement."

IRVING'S ASTORIA.

"ASTORIA, or Anecdotes of an Enterprise beyond the Rocky Mountains," is the title which Mr Washington Irving has given to a very amusing work, lately issued from the teeming press of Mr Bentley. It forms a narrative, or series of narratives, quite in the Robinson Crusoe style, enlivened with details of enterprise and adventure which remind one of the early overland expeditions of the Spanish and English towards the shores of the Pacific—the only difference being, that, while these marauders in days of yore were in search of gold, or the means of obtaining it, the travellers whom Mr Irving describes were in quest of peltries, the furs of the beaver and other animals inhabiting the western regions of America.

The title "Astoria" is adopted as being the name given to a small fort or trading post formed by Mr Astor, at the mouth of the Columbia river, as a settlement for fur traders belonging to the company which he undertook to establish.* The overland and sea expeditions to establish fur trading posts in connection with this fort, form the subject of the work. One of the main objects in this commercial enterprise was to establish a company of traders belonging to the United States, as a rival to the great North-West Company, the Mackinaw Company, and other associations belonging to Great Britain, and thus to cause the traffic in peltries, and the wealth arising from it, to centre in New York. Mr Astor, the mainspring of this energetic attempt, is a character so remarkable that we quote a few words of his history:—"John Jacob Astor was born in the honest little German village of Waldorf, near Heidelberg, on the banks of the Rhine. He was brought up in the simplicity of rural life, but, while yet a mere stripling, left his home, and launched himself amid the busy scenes of London, having had, from his boyhood, a singular presentiment that he would ultimately arrive at great fortune. At the close of the American Revolution he was still in London, and scarce on the threshold of active life. An elder brother had been for some few years resident in the United States, and Mr Astor determined to follow him, and to seek his fortunes in the rising country. Investing a small sum which he had amassed since leaving his native village, in merchandise suited to the American market, he embarked, in the month of November 1783, in a ship bound to Baltimore, and arrived in Hampton Roads in the month of January. The winter was extremely severe, and the ship, with many others, was detained by the ice in and about Chesapeake bay for nearly three months. During this period, the passengers of the various ships used occasionally to go on shore, and to mingle sociably together. In this way Mr Astor became acquainted with a countryman of his, a furrier by trade. Having had a previous impression that this might be a lucrative trade in the New World, he made many inquiries of his new acquaintance on the subject, who cheerfully gave him all the information

in his power, as to the quality and value of different furs, and the mode of carrying on the traffic. He subsequently accompanied him to New York, and by his advice Mr Astor was induced to invest the proceeds of his merchandise in furs. With these he sailed from New York to London in 1784, disposed of them advantageously, made himself further acquainted with the course of the trade, and returned the same year to New York, with a view to settle in the United States. He now devoted himself to the branch of commerce with which he had thus casually been made acquainted. He began his career, of course, on the narrowest scale; but he brought to the task a persevering industry, rigid economy, and strict integrity. To these were added an aspiring spirit that always looked upward; a genius bold, fertile, and expansive; a sagacity quick to grasp and convert every circumstance to his advantage, and a singular and never wavering confidence of signal success. As yet, trade in peltries was not organised in the United States, and could not be said to form a regular line of business. Furs and skins were casually collected by the country traders in their dealings with the Indians or the white hunters, but the main supply was derived from Canada. After an interval of some years, about 1807, Mr Astor embarked in this trade on his own account. His capital and resources had by this time greatly augmented, and he had risen from small beginnings to take his place among the first merchants and financiers of the country." In 1809, he obtained a charter from the legislature of the state of New York, for incorporating a company under the name of the American Fur Company, the capital for which was furnished from those large resources which he had established by his industry.

The possibility of penetrating the western regions, from the Missouri to the Pacific, having been ascertained by the success of the memorable expedition of Lewis and Clarke in 1804, Mr Astor's scheme consisted in planting a line of trading posts along the Missouri and the Columbia, to the mouth of the latter river, where was to be formed the chief trading house or mart. Inferior posts, according to his design, would be established in the interior, and on all the tributary streams of the Columbia, to trade with the Indians. A vessel was to be sent annually from New York, round by Cape Horn, to this main establishment, or Astoria, with merchandise, and to take the furs collected in the preceding year to Canton, there invest the proceeds in the rich goods of China, and return thus freighted to New York. Never, perhaps, did any single individual plan and endeavour to carry into execution so widely ramified a scheme of mercantile adventure.

The first step in the enterprise taken by Mr Astor, was to dispatch a vessel, the *Tonquin*, by sea, under the command of Jonathan Thorn, an upright and active man, but unfortunately of an unbending and somewhat irritable disposition. An amusing account of the voyage, which began in September 1808, is given by Mr Irving, and a narrative of the planting of fort Astoria succeeds. Steering northwards, the *Tonquin* now proceeded to Vancouver's Island, and there, in consequence of an affront given by the commander to one of the native chiefs, an onslaught was made upon the vessel by the savages, and the whole crew were murdered, with the single exception of an Indian interpreter, who by chance survived, and made his escape to Astoria to tell the melancholy tale. The loss of the *Tonquin* was a grievous blow to the infant establishment, and one that threatened to bring with it a train of disasters. The intelligence of the loss was not received in New York till many months afterwards. It was felt in all its force by Mr Astor, who was aware that it must cripple, if not entirely defeat, the great object of his ambition; he indulged, however, in no weak and vain lamentation, but sought to devise a prompt and efficient remedy.

Leaving the history of the adventurers on the coast of the Pacific, the author proceeds to the detail of the first overland expedition, which was designed to pave the way for settling the various inland posts. This extremely hazardous expedition, which set out in 1810, was placed under the command of one of the partners, Mr Hunt, a person who signalled himself by great ability, coolness, and courage. Proceeding first to Montreal, the ancient emporium of the fur trade, he there picks up recruits for the expedition, consisting of a certain number of *coureurs des bois*, and voyageurs, from the disbanded herd usually to be found loitering about the place. The *coureurs des bois*, or rangers of the woods, as one class of these wanderers were called, were originally men who had accompanied the Indians in their hunting expeditions, and made themselves acquainted with remote tracts and tribes; and who now became, as it were, pedlars of the wilderness. "These men would set out from Montreal with canoes well stocked with goods, with arms and ammunition, and would make their way up the many and wandering rivers that interlace the vast forests of the Canadas, coasting the most remote lakes, and creating new wants and habitudes among the natives. Sometimes they sojourned for months among them, assimilating to their tastes and habits with the happy facility of Frenchmen; adopting in some degree the Indian dress, and not unfrequently taking to themselves Indian wives. Twelve, fifteen, eighteen months, would often elapse without any tidings of them, when they would come sweeping their way down the Ottawa in full glee, their canoes laden down with packs of beaver skins; and now came their turn for revelry

and extravagance." The kindred class of voyageurs, who also sprang out of the fur trade, form a fraternity who are employed as carriers and assistants in long internal expeditions of travel and traffic, proceeding by means of boats and canoes on the rivers and lakes. "Their dress is generally half civilised, half savage. They wear a capot or surcoat, made of a blanket, a striped cotton shirt, cloth trousers or leathern leggings, mocassins of deer-skin, and a belt of variegated worsted, from which are suspended the knife, tobacco pouch, and other implements. Their language is of the same piebald character, being a French patois, embroidered with Indian and English words and phrases. The lives of the voyageurs are passed in wild and extensive roving, in the service of individuals, but more especially of the fur traders. They are generally of French descent, and inherit much of the gaiety and lightness of heart of their ancestors, being full of anecdote and song, and ever ready for the dance. They inherit, too, a fund of civility and complaisance; and, instead of that hardness and grossness which men in laborious life are apt to indulge towards each other, they are mutually obliging and accommodating; interchanging kind offices, yielding each other assistance and comfort in every emergency, and using the familiar appellations of 'cousin' and 'brother,' when there is in fact no relationship. Their natural good will is probably heightened by a community of adventure and hardship in their precarious and wandering life. No men are more submissive to their leaders and employers, more capable of enduring hardship, or more good-humoured under privations. Never are they so happy as when on long and rough expeditions, toiling up rivers or coasting lakes; encamping at night on the borders, gossiping round their fires, and bivouacking in the open air. They are dexterous boatmen, vigorous and adroit with the oar and paddle, and will row from morning until night without a murmur. The steersman often sings an old traditional French song, with some regular burden in which they all join, keeping time with their oars; if at any time they flag in spirits or relax in exertion, it is but necessary to strike up a song of the kind to put them all in fresh spirits and activity. The Canadian waters are vocal with these little French chansons, that have been echoed from mouth to mouth, and transmitted from father to son, from the earliest days of the colony; and it has a pleasing effect, in a still golden summer evening, to see a batteau gliding across the bosom of a lake, and dipping its oars to the cadence of these quaint old ditties, or sweeping along, in full chorus, on a bright sunny morning, down the transparent current of one of the Canadian rivers."

Of these hardy and erratic classes of beings, Mr Hunt hired a sufficient number for present purposes, at Montreal, and having laid in a supply of ammunition, provisions, and goods for the Indians, embarked the whole on board a large canoe, measuring between thirty and forty feet in length, constructed of birch bark, sewed with fibres of the roots of the spruce tree, and daubed with resin instead of tar. The party took their way up the Ottawa river, and in due time arrived at Mackinaw, an old French trading post, situated on an island of the same name, at the confluence of Lakes Huron and Michigan. At this place, in which the traders and trappers belonging to the Mackinaw company usually centred, from their expeditions about Lake Superior, the Arkansas, Missouri, and other regions of the West, Mr Hunt engaged additional assistants; and the party, thus augmented, proceeded onwards to St Louis, on the Mississippi, where the complement of hands was completed. On the 21st of October 1810, we behold the final departure of the expedition from the abodes of civilised man. The party was distributed in three boats, of different sizes, under the supreme command of Mr Hunt, and the subordinate direction of two or three fellow-partners of the concern. In this way did the party set out from St Louis, to explore the country as far as the shores of the Pacific, a distance of several thousands of miles, and through territories inhabited by Sioux, Blackfeet, and other malignant races of Indians, who waged an incessant and treacherous war with the whites. Soon after departing from St Louis, the boats reached the mouth of the Missouri, and there the troubles of the expedition commenced. Sails being of only casual assistance on this turbulent river, which flows with great force, the main dependence was on bodily strength and manual dexterity. "The boats in general had to be propelled by oars and setting poles, or drawn by the hand, and by grappling hooks from one root or overhanging tree to another; or towed by the long cordelle, or towing line, where the shores were sufficiently clear of woods and thickets to permit the men to pass along the banks. During this long and tedious progress, the boat would be exposed to frequent danger from floating trees and great masses of drift wood, or to be enmeshed upon snags and sawyers; that is to say, sunken trees, presenting a jagged or pointed end above the surface of the water. As the channel of the river frequently shifted from side to side, according to the bends and sandbanks, the boat had, in the same way, to advance in a zigzag course. Often a part of the crew would have to leap into the water at the shallows, and wade along with the towing line, while their comrades on board toilsomely assisted with oar and setting pole. Sometimes the boat would seem to be retained motionless, as if spell bound, opposite some point round which the current set with violence,

* Columbia river rises at the western base of the Rocky Mountains, and flows in a westerly direction to the Pacific Ocean, into which it falls about the 46th degree of north latitude.

and where the utmost labour scarce effected any visible progress. On these occasions it was that the merits of the Canadian voyageurs came into full action. Patient of toil, not to be disheartened by impediments and disappointments, fertile in expedients, and versed in every mode of humouring and conquering the wayward current, they would play every exertion, sometimes in the boat, sometimes on shore, sometimes in the water, however cold; always alert, always in good humour; and, should they at any time flag or grow weary, one of their popular boat songs, chanted by a veteran oarsman, and responded to in chorus, acted as a never-failing restorative. By such assiduous and persevering labour they made their way about four hundred and fifty miles up the Missouri, by the 16th of November, to the mouth of the Nodowa. As this was a good hunting country, and as the season was rapidly advancing, they determined to establish their winter quarters at this place; and, in fact, two days after they had come to a halt, the river closed just above their encampment." Mr Hunt, now finding that he should require an interpreter, as well as some additional hands, who could, if necessary, battle with the Indians—the voyageurs he had, not being fighters—he returned with a few companions to St Louis, to procure the persons he required. After an immense deal of trouble, he procured at St Louis, an interpreter, Pierre Dorion by name, who was a half-breed between French and Indian, and several riflemen, who had been accustomed to encounters with the savages in the wilderness. Pierre, the interpreter, not being willing to budge without his family, Mr Hunt was obliged to take his squaw and couple of children into the party. The expedition was also augmented in numbers by the voluntary accession of two scientific gentlemen; one Mr John Bradbury, who had been sent out by the Linnean Society of Liverpool to make a collection of American plants; the other, a Mr Nuttall, also engaged in botanical pursuits.

In the month of April 1811, the encampment was broken up, and the party, now consisting of nearly sixty persons, embarked in four boats on the Missouri, the largest boat being mounted with a swivel and two howitzers. The early stages of the voyage up the mighty Missouri were exceedingly pleasant. During the day, the boats were carried forward by a strong wind impelling the sails, or the oars were merrily plied by the expert voyageurs, to the music of their old French chansons. "Encamping at night on some beautiful bank, beneath spreading trees, which afforded shelter and fuel, the tents were pitched, the fires made, and the meals prepared round the evening fire. All were asleep at an early hour; some lying under the tents, others wrapped in blankets before the fire or beneath the trees, and some few in the boats moored to the margin of the stream."

Our narrow limits do not permit us to recount the adventures which were encountered by this roving band of hunters and traders. Suffice it to say, that they met with various parties of Indians, by whom they were considerably annoyed and occasionally robbed. With one of the tribes, Mr Hunt exchanged his boats for horses, wherewith to proceed the remainder of the journey by land. The contemplation of the prospect of the land journey struck a chill into the hearts of a number of the party. The wilderness they were about to enter "was a region almost as vast and trackless as the ocean, and, at the time of which we treat, but little known, excepting through the vague accounts of Indian hunters. A part of their route would lay across an immense tract stretching north and south for hundreds of miles along the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and drained by the tributary streams of the Missouri and the Mississippi. This region, which resembles one of the immeasurable steppes of Asia, has not inaptly been termed 'the great American desert.' It spreads forth into undulating and treeless plains, and desolate sandy wastes, wearisome to the eye from their extent and monotony, and which are supposed by geologists to have formed the ancient floor of the ocean, countless ages since, when its primeval waves beat against the granite bases of the Rocky Mountains. It is a land where no man permanently abides; for in certain seasons of the year there is no food either for the hunter or his steed. The herbage is parched and withered; the brooks and streams are dried up; the buffalo, the elk, and deer, have wandered to distant parts, keeping within the verge of expiring verdure, and leaving behind them a vast uninhabited solitude, seamed by ravines, the beds of former torrents, but now serving only to tantalise and increase the thirst of the traveller. Occasionally the monotony of this vast wilderness is interrupted by mountainous belts of sand and limestone, broken into confused masses; with precipitous cliffs and yawning ravines, looking like the ruins of a world; or is traversed by lofty and barren ridges of rock, almost impassable, like those denominated the Black Hills. Beyond these rise the stern barriers of the Rocky Mountains, the limits, as it were, of the Atlantic world."

The journey of Mr Hunt and his party over this trackless desert was exceedingly distressing. All the horses except one were stolen by the Indians; and provisions at last failing, the pangs of hunger were added to the miseries which had to be endured. Sometimes halting at favourable spots to recruit the strength of the weakest of the party, and again making an effort to penetrate the rugged defiles of the Rocky

Mountains, now covered with deep snows, the wanderers at length attained the western declivity of this high-lying region. Here they were still disappointed of finding any living animals, which they might slaughter for food. All traces of game had disappeared, and the dispirited party, hardly able to crawl, subsisted for a time on strips of beaver skins broiled on a fire kindled for the purpose. After having spent twenty-one days of extreme toil and suffering, in penetrating the mountain passes from their eastern barrier, they arrived at a tributary stream of the Columbia. This the first sight of water flowing in a westerly direction, was hailed with a joy it is impossible to describe. With the assistance of some friendly Indians, they procured a couple of canoes, in which they pleasantly dropped down the stream, and in a few days arrived at their place of destination, Astoria, haggard in their appearance, and, it seems, perfectly in rags. Of course, the whole party—or rather its remnants, for several had parted company by the way—were received with every demonstration of joy and friendship by the band of adventurers at Astoria. The distance which the party had travelled from St Louis was upwards of 3500 miles, a wide circuit having been made to avoid certain districts inhabited by dangerous tribes of savages; and the time occupied in the journey was nearly eleven months.

Most unfortunately for Mr Astor and the other partners of the company, neither this nor several subsequent expeditions were of any practical benefit. The loss of the Tonquin was a disaster which was never altogether recovered; and some ulterior errors of judgment, in not implicitly obeying Mr Astor's instructions, proved to be equally ruinous. The breaking out of the war betwixt Great Britain and the United States was the final blow given to the concern. Fort Astoria fell into the hands of the British; and the American fur company thereupon partially breaking up, the trade in peltries was forthwith engrossed by the North-West Company and other associations. For an account of the precise condition of the American fur trade in the present day, we refer to the concluding part of Mr Irving's interesting work.

GLADIATORIAL COMBATS.

[In "Valerius," an early fictitious production of Mr Lockhart, the hero, a Briton of the second century, is represented as visiting ancient Rome, and describing the various scenes it presented to his eye. The following passage, descriptive of the sanguinary games performed in the Colosseum, is written with so much feeling and historic fidelity, and throws so striking a light on the semi-barbarous character of the Romans of the empire, that (more particularly as the work has been strangely overlooked by the public) we deem it worthy of being presented to our readers.]

SEEN was the enormous crowd of human beings, high and low, assembled therein, that when any motion went through the assembly, the noise of their rising up or sitting down could be likened to nothing, except, perhaps, the far-off sullen roaring of the illimitable sea, or the rushing of a great night-wind amongst the boughs of a forest. It was the first time that I had ever seen a peopled amphitheatre—nay, it was the first time I had ever seen any very great multitude of men assembled together, within any fabric of human erection; so that you cannot doubt there was, in the scene before me, enough to impress my mind with a very serious feeling of astonishment—not to say of veneration. Not less than eighty thousand human beings (for such they told me was the stupendous capacity of the building) were here met together. Such a multitude can nowhere be regarded, without inspiring a certain indefinite indefinable sense of majesty; least of all, when congregated within the wide sweep of such a glorious edifice as this, and surrounded on all sides with every circumstance of ornament and splendour befitting an everlasting monument of Roman victories, the munificence of Roman princes, and the imperial luxury of universal Rome. Judge, then, with what eyes of wonder all this was surveyed by me, who had but of yesterday, as it were, emerged from the solitary stillness of a British valley; who had been accustomed all my life to consider, as among the most impressive of human spectacles, the casual passages of a few scores of legionaries, through some dark alley of a wood, or awe-struck village of barbarians. Trajan himself was already present, but in no wise, except from the canopy over his ivory chair, to be distinguished from the other consul that sat over against him.

The proclamation being repeated a second time, a door on the right hand of the arena was laid open, and a single trumpet sounded, as it seemed to me, mournfully, while the gladiators marched in with slow steps, each man naked, except being girt with a cloth about his loins; bearing on his left arm a small buckler, and having a short straight sword suspended by a cord around his neck. They marched, as I have said, slowly and steadily; so that the whole assembly had full leisure to contemplate the forms of the men: while those who were, or who imagined themselves to be, skilled in the business of the arena, were fixing, in their own minds, on such as they thought most likely to be victorious, and laying wagers concerning their chance of success, with as much

unconcern as if they had been contemplating so many irrational animals, or rather indeed, I should say, so many senseless pieces of ingenious mechanism. The wide diversity of complexion and feature exhibited among these devoted athletes, afforded at once a majestic idea of the extent of the Roman empire, and a terrible one of the purposes to which that wide sway had been too often made subservient. The beautiful Greek, with a countenance of noble serenity, and limbs after which the sculptors of his country might have modelled their god-like symbols of graceful power, walked side by side with the yellow-bearded savage, whose gigantic muscles had been nerved in the freezing waves of the Elbe or the Danube, or whose thick strong hair was congealed and shagged on his brow with the breath of Scythian or Scandinavian winters. Many fierce Moors and Arabs, and curled Ethiopians, were there, with the beams of the southern sun burnt in every various shade of swarthiness upon their skins. Nor did our own remote island want her representatives in the deadly procession, for I saw among the armed multitude (and that not altogether without some feelings of more peculiar interest) two or three gaunt barbarians, whose breasts and shoulders bore uncouth marks of blue and purple, so vivid in the tints, that I thought many months could not have elapsed since they must have been wandering in wild freedom along the native ridges of some Silurian or Caledonian forest. As they moved round the arena, some of these men were saluted by the whole multitude with noisy acclamations, in token, I supposed, of the approbation wherewith the feats of some former festival had deserved to be remembered. On the appearance of others, groans and hisses were heard from some parts of the amphitheatre, mixed with contending cheers and huzzas from others of the spectators. But by far the greater part were suffered to pass on in silence; this being in all likelihood the first; alas! who could tell whether it might not also be the last day of their sharing in that fearful exhibition!

Their masters paired them shortly, and in succession they began to make proof of their fatal skill. At first, Scythian was matched against Scythian—Greek against Greek—Ethiopian against Ethiopian—Spaniard against Spaniard; and I saw the sand dyed beneath their feet with blood streaming from the wounds of kindred hands. But these combats, although abundantly bloody and terrible, were regarded only as preludes to the serious business of the day, which consisted of duels between Europeans on one side, and Africans on the other; wherein it was the well-nigh intransgressible law of the amphitheatre, that at least one out of every pair of combatants should die on the arena before the eyes of the multitude. Instead of shrinking from the more desperate brutalities of these latter conflicts, the almost certainty of their fatal termination seemed only to make the assembly gaze on them with a more intense curiosity, and a more inhuman measure of delight. Methinks I feel as if it were but of yesterday, when—sickened with the protracted terrors of a conflict, that seemed as if it were never to have an end, although both the combatants were already covered all over with hideous gashes—I at last bowed down my head, and clasped my hands upon my eyes, to save them from the torture of gazing thereon farther.

At that instant all were silent, in the contemplation of the breathless strife; inasmuch, that a groan, the first that had escaped from either of the combatants, although low and reluctant, and half-suppressed, sounded quite distinctly amid the deep hush of the assembly, and being constrained thereby to turn mine eyes once more downwards, I beheld that, at length, one of the two had received the sword of his adversary quite through his body, and had sunk before him upon the sand. A beautiful young man was he that had received this harm, with fair hair, clustered with glossy ringlets upon his neck and brows; but the sickness of his wound was already visible on his drooping eyelids, and his lips were pale, as if the blood had rushed from them to the untimely outlet. Nevertheless, the Moorish gladiator who had fought with him, had drawn forth again his weapon, and stood there, awaiting in silence the decision of the multitude, whether at once to slay the defenceless youth, or to assist in removing him from the arena, if perchance the blood might be stopped from flowing, and some hope of recovery even yet extended to him. Hereupon there arose, on the instant, a loud voice of contention; and it seemed to me as if the wounded man regarded the multitude with a proud, and withal a contemptuous glance; being aware, without question, that he had executed all things so as to deserve their compassion, but aware, moreover, that even had that been freely vouchsafed to him, it was too late for any hope of safety. But the cruelty of their faces, it may be, and the loudness of their cries, were a sorrow to him, and filled his dying breast with loathing. Whether or not the haughtiness of his countenance had been observed by them with displeasure, I cannot say; but so it was, that those who had cried out to give a chance of recovery, were speedily silent; and the emperor looking around, and seeing all the thumbs turned downwards (for that, you know, is the signal of death), was constrained to give the sign, and forthwith the young man receiving again without a struggle the sword of the Moor into his gashed bosom, breathed forth his life, and lay stretched out in his blood upon the place of guilt. With that a joyous clamour was uplifted by many of those that looked upon it; and the victorious Moor being crowned with an ivy garland, was carried in procession around the arena by certain young men, who leaped down for that purpose from the midst of the assembly. In the mean time, those that had the care of such things, dragged away, with a filthy hook, the corpse of him that had been slain; and then raking up the sand over the blood that had fallen from him, prepared the place, with indifferent countenances, for some other cruel tragedy of the same kind, while all around me, the spectators were seen rising from their places and saluting each other; and there was a buzz of talking as universal as the silence had been during the combat; some speaking of it, and paying and receiving money lost and won upon its issue; some already laughing merrily, and discouraging concerning other matters, even as if nothing uncommon had been witnessed;

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while others again appeared to be entirely occupied with the martial music which ever struck up majestically at such pauses in the course of the cruel exhibition; some, beating time upon the benches before them; others, lightly joining their voices in unison with the proud notes of the trumpets and clarions.

THE ROCK DOVE OF THE HEBRIDES.

In Mr Macgillivray's excellent work on British Birds, which we noticed in a late number of the Journal, the following account is given of a species of wild pigeons which inhabit the western rocky shores of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland:—

At the western extremity of Ben Capval, a promontory of one of the remote Hebrides, is a vast mass of rock, broken by gaps and fissures into projecting crags and sloping shelves, and looking as if originally produced by the separation of a portion of the mountain which had sunk into the depths of the ocean that heaves its billows against the rugged shores. At the summit is an aggregation of angular fragments, the termination of an elevated ridge, and midway down is a green slope, horizontally traversed by several paths formed by the sheep, which at all seasons, but especially in spring, are fond of rambling among the crags, in search of fresh pasturage. The declivity terminates on the sinuous and angular edge of precipices several hundred feet in height, near the upper part of which a pair of white-tailed eagles have fixed their abode, while the crevices are here and there peopled by starlings. The shelves of those rocks are totally inaccessible by ordinary means, although an adventurous shepherd or farmer sometimes descends on a rope held by half a dozen people above, to destroy an eagle's nest, or rescue a sheep which has leaped upon some grassy spot, and is unable to reascend; but on one side, by a steep and slippery descent in a fissure, one may penetrate to the base, where he discovers a hole in the rock barely large enough to admit him on his hands and knees. This hole is the entrance of a narrow passage in a crevice roofed with fallen blocks. On one hand is a recess, in which a person might recline at full length, and which was actually employed as a bed by Mr Macleod of Berneray after the battle of Culloden; and a few yards farther, the crevice opens into an irregular cave communicating seaward with the open air, and formed by a rent in the rock, filled above with large blocks that seem ready to fall. The heavy surges of the Atlantic continually dash against a heap of stones, which partially block up the mouth of the cave. On this heap the crested cormorants nightly repose, and in summer rear their young. The little shelves and angular recesses of the roof and upper parts of the cavern are tenanted by pigeons, the light blue of whose plumage has a beautiful appearance, relieved as they are by the dark ground of the moist rocks, and the soft murmur of whose notes comes upon the ear with a pleasing though melancholy effect. There, and in other places of a similar nature, have I watched these beautiful birds, until I rendered myself in some measure familiar with their habits; and amid such wild and desolate scenes have I loved to wander and indulge in the not less wild imaginings of a spirit that desired to hold converse with the unseen but ever present Spirit of the universe.

At early dawn the pigeons may be seen issuing from their retreats in straggling parties, which soon take a determinate direction, and meeting with others by the way, proceed in a loose body along the shores until they reach the cultivated parts of the country, where they settle in large flocks, diligently seeking for grains of barley and oats, pods of the charlock, seeds of the wild mustard, polygona, and other plants, together with several species of small shell-snails, especially *Helix cinctiorum* and *Bulinus acutus*, which abound in the sandy pastures. When they have young, they necessarily make several trips in the course of the day; but from the end of autumn to the beginning of summer, they continue all day in the fields. In winter they collect into flocks, sometimes composed of several hundred individuals; and, as at this season they are anxious to make the best use of the short period of day-light, they may easily be approached by a person acquainted with the useful art of creeping and skulking. In general, however, they are rather shy, and very seldom allow a person to advance openly within sixty or seventy yards. It is not uncommon to kill four or five at a shot, and on this subject I have heard many marvellous tales in the Hebrides; but as I intend to confine my relation to my own experience, I can only state, that, during a snow-storm, when the pigeons had assembled in a corn-yard remote from houses, I once killed twenty-three at three successive shots; that is, nine for the first, eight for the next, and six for the third. Two or three wounded made their escape to the rocks in the immediate neighbourhood.

The manners of the Rock Doves are similar to those of our domestic pigeons, which are evidently descended from individuals of this species. When searching for food, they walk about with great celerity, moving the head backwards and forwards at each step, the tail sloping towards the ground, and the tips of the wings tucked up over it. In windy weather they usually move in a direction more or less opposite to the blast, and keep their body nearer to the ground than when it is calm, the whole flock going together. When startled, they rise suddenly, and by striking the ground with their wings, produce a crackling noise. When at full speed, they fly with great celerity, the air whistling against their pinions. Their flight is very similar to that of the ringed and golden plovers, birds which in form approach very nearly to the pigeons, as may be seen more especially on comparing their skeletons; and as this affinity has not been observed by any other person, I would direct the attention of ornithologists to it. They usually alight abruptly when the place is open and clear, and, if very hungry, immediately commence their search: although on alighting they frequently stand and look around them for a few moments. On other occasions, however, they fly over the field in circles, descending gradually. When flying from the rocks to the places where they procure their food, and when returning in the evening, they do not mount

high in the air; and when passing over an eminence, they fly so low as almost to touch it. When the wind is very high and their course is against it, they fly in the same manner, taking advantage of the shelter. It used to afford me much pleasure, and probably would be interesting to most people, to observe from one of the wild headlands of Harris, the pigeons flying swiftly and silently towards their homes, along the cliffs, while every now and then a string of cormorants, gannets, or guillemots, would come up, and a straggling flock of gulls pursue their route in a desultory manner.

The notes of the Rock Dove resemble the syllables *coo-too-coo* quickly repeated, the last prolonged. It is monogamous, as I apprehend all wild birds, even the gallinaceous, are. A nest is gradually formed, which consists of withered stalks and blades of grass or other plants, not very neatly arranged, but disposed so as to answer the intended purpose. Two beautiful white eggs, of an elliptical form, one an inch and four twelfths in length, an inch and one twelfth in breadth, the other a little shorter, are then deposited, and in due time the young make their appearance. During incubation the male supplies his mate with food, which she picks from his throat as he forces it up from the crop. Even at other times the female often goes up to the male, introduces her bill on one side into his mouth, and obtains a grain of barley or a morsel of other food. In about three weeks, the young come abroad, and after being fed and instructed by their parents for some days, are left to shift for themselves.

There can be no reasonable doubt that the Rock Dove is the original of our domestic pigeons, in fact the true stock dove, although that name has been given to another species. The domestic varieties of the Rock Dove are very numerous. The most beautiful, in my estimation, is the most common, the blue, white-backed pigeon, which is in all respects similar to the wild stock, only in general a good deal larger. The first remarkable change is when the white of the back is substituted by blue. Then there are dark-blue, purple, spotted blue and purple, pale red, white, and variously coloured pigeons, all without much change of form, and all therefore esteemed vulgar. Some of the breeds are of great size, without much difference of form, as the Roman and Maltese. Others exhibit various distortions and disfigurements, which are highly esteemed by pigeon-fanciers. Thus the Jacobine has a ruff of incurved feathers about the neck; the tumbler, a remarkable increase in number of the tail-feathers, which are kept spread like a fan; the Turkish or carrier pigeon has a kind of wattles about the eyes and the base of the bill; and the cropper is deformed by a vast inflated crop, which is sometimes double, forces the bird to draw back its head, and gives its body an unnatural degree of obliquity. These monstrosities, like double flowers, please persons of monstrous tastes, but are inconsistent with true beauty, and as much inferior to their originals in grace as a large city dame, bloated and covered with frounces, frills, and ribbons, is to a rustic maiden clad in simple attire, and glowing with the ruddy hue of pure and uncontaminated blood.

THE TALE OF THE FALCON.

[The following tale is one of the most admired pieces in one of the most popular books ever published, the *Decameron* of Boccaccio. As the *Decameron* is little read by the British public, and, as a whole, were as well less read than it is, it seems proper thus to select the really fine passages of it, for the amusement of our large circle of readers. We have already (in No. 257) presented the tale of Griselda, and it is not unlikely that we may hereafter give at least one other specimen of the Italian *Walter Scott* of the fourteenth century.]

At Florence dwelt a young gentleman named Frederick, son of Philip Albergo, who, in feats of arms and gentility, surpassed all the youth in Tuscany; this gentleman was in love with a lady called Madam Giovanna, one of the most agreeable women in Florence, and to gain her affection, used to be continually making tilts, balls, and such diversions; lavishing away his money in rich presents, and every thing that was extravagant. But she, as just and reputable as she was fair, made no account either of what he did for her sake, or of himself. Living in this manner, his wealth soon began to waste, till at last he had nothing left but a very small farm, the income of which was a most slender maintenance, and a single hawk, one of the best in the world. Yet loving still more than ever, and finding he could subsist no longer in the city, in the manner he would choose to live, he retired to his farm, where he went out a-fowling, as often as the weather would permit, and bore his distress patiently, and without ever making his necessity known to any body. Now, one day it happened, that, as he was reduced to the last extremity, the husband to this lady chanced to fall sick, who, being very rich, left all his substance to an only son, who was almost grown up, and if he should die without issue, he then ordered that it should revert to his lady, whom he was extremely fond of; and when he had disposed thus of his fortune, he died. She now, being left a widow, retired, as our ladies usually do during the summer season, to a house of hers in the country near to that of Frederick; whence it happened that her son soon became acquainted with him, and they used to divert themselves together with dogs and hawks; when he, having often seen Frederick's hawk fly, and being strangely taken with it, was desirous of having it, though the other valued it to that degree that he knew not how to ask for it. This being so, the young man soon fell sick, which gave his mother great concern, as he was her only child, and she ceased not to attend on and comfort him; often requesting, if there was any particular thing which he fancied, to let her know it, and promising to procure it for him if it was possible. The young gentleman, after many offers of this kind, at last said, "Madam, if you could contrive for me to have Frederick's hawk, I should soon be well." She was in some suspense at this, and began to consider how best to act. She knew that Frederick had long entertained a liking for her, without the least encouragement on her part; therefore she said to herself, "How can I

send or go to ask for this hawk, which I hear is the very best of the kind, and what alone maintains him in the world? Or how can I offer to take away from a gentleman all the pleasure that he has in life?" Being in this perplexity, though she was very sure of having it for a word, she stood without making any reply; till at last the love of her son so far prevailed, that she resolved at all events to make him easy, and not send, but go herself to bring it. She then replied, "Son, set your heart at rest, and think only of your recovery; for I promise you that I will go to-morrow for it the first thing I do." This afforded him such joy, that he immediately showed signs of amendment.

The next morning she went, by way of a walk, with another lady in company, to his little cottage to inquire for him. At that time, as it was too early to go out upon his diversion, he was at work in his garden. Hearing therefore that his mistress inquired for him at the door, he ran thither, surprised and full of joy; whilst she, with a great deal of complaisance, went to meet him; and after the usual compliments, she said, "Good morning to you, sir; I am come to make you some amends for what you have formerly done on my account; what I mean is, that I have brought a companion to take a neighbourly dinner with you to-day." He replied, with a great deal of humility, "Madam, I do not remember ever to have received any harm by your means, but rather so much good, that if I was worth any thing at any time, it was due to your singular merit, and the love I had for you; and most assuredly this courteous visit is more welcome to me than if I had all that I have wasted returned to me to spend over again; but you are come to a very poor host." With these words he showed her into his house, seeming much out of countenance, and from thence they went into the garden, when, having no company for her, he said, "Madam, as I have nobody else, please to admit this honest woman, a labourer's wife, to be with you, whilst I set forth the table." He, although his poverty was extreme, was never so sensible of his having been extravagant as now; but finding nothing to entertain the lady with, he was in the utmost perplexity, lamenting his evil fortune, and running up and down like one out of his wits; at length, having neither money nor any thing he could pawn, and being willing to give her something, at the same time that he would not make his case known, even so much as to his own labourer, he espied his hawk upon the perch, which he seized, and finding it very fat, judged it might make a dish not unworthy of such a lady. Without further thought, then, he pulled his head off, and gave him to a girl to dress and roast carefully, whilst he laid the cloth, having a small quantity of linen yet left, and then he returned, with a smile on his countenance, into the garden to her, telling her that what little dinner he was able to provide was now ready.

She and her friend, therefore, entered and sat down with him, he serving them all the time with great respect, when they ate the hawk. After dinner was over, and they had sat chatting a little while together, she thought it a fit time to tell her errand, and she spoke to him courteously in this manner:—"Sir, if you call to mind your past life, and my resolution, which perhaps you may call cruelty, I doubt not but you will wonder at my presumption, when you know what I am come for: but if you had children of your own, to know how strong our natural affection is towards them, I am very sure you would excuse me. Now, my having a son forces me, against my own inclination, and all reason whatsoever, to request a thing of you, which I know you value extremely, as you have no other comfort or diversion left in your small circumstances; I mean your hawk, which he has taken such a fancy to, that unless I bring him back with me, I very much fear that he will die of his disorder. Therefore I entreat you, not for any regard you have for me (for in that respect you are in no way obliged to me), but for that generosity with which you have always distinguished yourself, that you would please to let me have the animal I speak of, by which means you will save my child's life, and lay him under perpetual obligations."

No sooner did Frederick hear the lady's request, and knowing it was out of his power to serve her, than he began to weep before he was able to make a word of reply. This she first thought was his great concern to part with his favourite bird, and that he was going to give her a flat denial; but after she had waited a little for his answer, he said, "Madam, ever since I have fixed my affections upon you, fortune has been contrary to me in many things; but all the rest is nothing to what has now come to pass. You are here to visit me in this poor mansion, and whither in my prosperity you would never deign to come; you also entreat a small present from me, which it is no way in my power to give, as I am going briefly to tell you. As soon as I was acquainted with the great favour you designed me, I thought it proper, considering your superior merit and excellency, to treat you, according to my ability, with something more nice and valuable than is usually given to other persons, when, calling to mind my hawk, which you now request, and his goodness, I judged him a fit present for you, and you have had him roasted. Nor could I have thought him better bestowed, had you not now desired him in a different manner, which is such a grief to me, that I shall never be at peace as long as I live;" and upon saying this, he produced his feathers, feet, and talons. The lady began now to blame him for killing such a bird to entertain any woman with, secretly, however, praising the goodness of his heart, which poverty had no power to abate. Thus, having no further hopes of obtaining the hawk, she thanked him for the respect and good-will he had showed towards her, and returned full of concern to her son; who, either out of grief for the disappointment, or through the violence of his disorder, died in a few days.

Madam Giovanna continued sorrowful for some time; but being left rich, and young, her brothers pressed her to marry again, which, though against her inclinations, yet finding them still importunate, and remembering Frederick's great worth, and the late instance of his generosity, in killing such a bird for her entertainment, she said, "I should rather choose to continue as I am; but since it is

your desire that I take a husband, I will have only Frederick Allergi." They smiled contemptuously at this, and said, "You simple woman! what are you talking of? He is not worth one farthing in the world." She replied, "I believe it, brothers, to be as you say; but know, that I would sooner have a man that stands in need of riches, than riches without a man." They hearing her resolution, and well knowing his generous temper, gave her to him with all her wealth; and he, seeing himself possessed of a lady whom he had so dearly loved, and such a vast fortune, lived in all true happiness with her, and was a better manager of his affairs for the time to come.

THE PARISIAN HYPOCHONDRIAC.

THE following case of hypochondriacal insanity is given in the *Analyst*, a quarterly journal of science and literature:—"The case of a watchmaker is recorded by the celebrated Pinel, physician to the Bicêtre, in Paris, during the revolution and the republic. This man was infatuated with the chimera of perpetual motion, and to effect this discovery he set to work with indefatigable ardour. From unremitting attention to the object of his enthusiasm, coinciding with the influence of revolutionary disturbances, his imagination was greatly heated, his sleep was interrupted, and at length a complete derangement took place. His case was marked by a most whimsical illusion of the imagination: he fancied that he had lost his head upon the scaffold; that it had been thrown promiscuously among the heads of many other victims; that the judges, having repented of their cruel sentence, had ordered these heads to be restored to their respective owners, and placed upon their respective shoulders; but, that, in consequence of an unhappy mistake, the gentlemen who had the management of that business had placed upon his shoulders the head of one of his unhappy companions. The idea of this whimsical change of his head occupied his thoughts night and day, which determined his friends to send him to the asylum. Nothing could exceed the extravagant flowings of his heated brain: he sang, he cried, or danced incessantly; and as there appeared no propensity to commit acts of violence or disturbance, he was allowed to go about the hospital without control, in order to expend, by evaporation, the effervescence of his spirits. 'Look at these teeth!' he cried; 'mine were exceedingly handsome; these are rotten and decayed. My mouth was sound and healthy; this is foul and diseased. What difference between this hair, and that of my own head!'

The idea of perpetual motion frequently recurred to him in the midst of his wanderings; and he chalked on all the doors or windows as he passed, the various designs by which his wondrous piece of mechanism was to be constructed. The method best calculated to cure so whimsical an illusion appeared to be that of encouraging his prosecution of it to satiety. His friends were accordingly requested to send him his tools, with materials to work upon, and other requisites, such as plates of copper, steel, and watch-wheels. His zeal was now redoubled; his whole attention was rivetted upon his favourite pursuit; he forgot his meals, and after about a month's labour, which he sustained with a constancy that deserved a better success, our artist began to think that he had followed a false route. He broke into a thousand fragments the piece of machinery which he had fabricated with so much toil and thought and labour, entered upon the construction of another upon a new plan, and laboured with equal pertinacity for another fortnight. The various parts being completed, he brought them together; he fancied that he saw a perfect harmony amongst them. The whole was now finally adjusted; his anxiety was indescribable—motion succeeded; it continued for some time, and he supposed it capable of continuing for ever. He was elevated to the highest pitch of enjoyment and triumph, and ran like lightning into the interior of the hospital, crying out, like another Archimedes, 'At length I have solved this famous problem, which has puzzled so many men celebrated for their wisdom and talents!' Grievous to state, he was disconcerted in the midst of his triumph. The wheels stopped! the 'perpetual motion' ceased! His intoxication of joy was succeeded by disappointment and confusion; though, to avoid a humiliating and mortifying confession, he declared that he could easily remove the impediment; but, tired of that kind of employment, he was determined, for the future, to devote his attention solely to his business.

There still remained another imaginary impression to be counteracted, that of the exchange of his head, which unceasingly occurred to him. A keen and unanswerable stroke of pleasantry seemed best adapted to correct this fantastic whim. Another convalescent, of a gay and facetious humour, instructed in the part he should play in this comedy, adroitly turned the conversation to the subject of the famous miracle of St Denis, in which it will be recollected that the holy man, after decapitation, walked away with his head under his arm, which he kissed and consoled with for its misfortune. Our mechanician strongly maintained the possibility of the fact, and sought to confirm it by an appeal to his own case. The other set up a loud laugh, and replied, with a tone of the keenest ridicule, 'Madman as thou art, how could St Denis kiss his own head? Was it with his heels?' This equally unexpected and unanswerable retort forcibly struck the maniac. He retired confused amid the peals of laughter which were provoked at his expense, and never afterwards mentioned the exchange of his head.

This is a very instructive case, inasmuch as it illustrates, in the clearest point of view, the moral treatment of the insane. It shows us the kind of mental remedies which are likely to be successful in the cure of disordered intellect. This disease was purely of the imagination, and the causes which produced it did not lie very deep, neither were they such as, under proper management, were likely to produce any permanent alienation of mind. An intense application to the more speculative parts of his trade, had fixed his imagination upon the discovery of perpetual motion; mingling with this, when his judgment was half dethroned, came the idea of losing his own head, and getting a wrong one. And at a time when

heads were falling indiscriminately around him, this second freak of the imagination, acting as a kind of interlude or by-play to the first, was one of the most natural that could be supposed. The ideas which produced this man's insanity were rather of a whimsical cast; springing from a mind of no great power, over which none of the passions appear to have exercised any marked or predominant sway."

HYMN TO THE SETTING SUN.

(This beautiful poem is put into the mouths of a heathen peasant, in Mr G. P. R. James's late historical romance entitled "Attila.")

Slow, slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
Thy course of beneficence done;
As glorious go down to the ocean's warm breast
As when thy bright race was begun.
For all thou hast done,
Since thy rising, oh, Sun,
May thou and thy Maker be blest.
Thou hast scattered the night from thy broad golden way,
Thou hast given us thy light through a long happy day,
Thou hast roused up the birds, thou hast wakened the flowers,
To chant on thy path, and to perfume the hours.
Then slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
And rise again beautiful, blessing and blest.
Slow, slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
Yet pause but a moment to shed
One warm lock of love on the earth's dewy breast,
Ere the star'd curtain fall round thy bed,
And to promise the time,
When, awaking sublime,
Thou shalt rush all refresh'd from thy rest.
Warm hopes drop like dew from thy life-giving hand,
Teaching hearts closed in darkness like flowers to expand;
Dreams wake into joys when first touch'd by thy light,
As slow the dim waves of the sea at thy sight.
Then slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
And rise again beautiful, blessing and blest.
Slow, slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
Prolonging the sweet evening hour;
Then robe again soon in the morn's golden vest,
To go forth in thy beauty and power.
Yet pause on thy way,
To the full height of day,
For thy rising and setting are blest.
When thou com'st after darkness to gladden our eyes,
Or departest in glory, in glory to rise,
May hope and may prayer still be woke by thy rays,
And thy going be mark'd with thanksgiving and praise.
Then slow, mighty wanderer, sink to thy rest,
And rise again beautiful, blessing and blest.

BOOKS IN THE OLDEN TIMES.

A NEWLY published volume has come under our notice, and appears to be deserving of being made known, entitled "An Inquiry into the Nature and Form of the Books of the Ancients; with a History of the Art of Bookbinding; by John Andrews Arnett." The work contains much amusing information regarding the construction and appearance of the books in use both before and after the invention of printing; also of the libraries or collections of books in bygone ages. The following description of the kind of books used in the religious observances of the monasteries, shows how elegant in appearance some of the books were in former times:—"The Bedford Missal (or prayer-book) is, perhaps, as splendid a specimen of the taste and ingenuity of the monks, as any extant. It contains fifty-nine large miniatures, occupying nearly the whole page, and above a thousand small ones, in circles of about an inch in diameter, displayed in elegant borders of golden foliage, with variegated flowers, &c. Among the portraits are whole-length ones of John Duke of Bedford, regent of France in the reign of Henry VI., and of his duchess. The volume measures eleven inches by seven and a half in width, and two inches and a half in thickness. It is bound in crimson velvet with gold clasps, wherein are engraved the arms of Harley, Cavendish, and Hollis, quarterly. The Duke of Bedford presented it to his nephew Henry VI. It was bought of the Somerset family, by Harley, second Earl of Oxford, from whom it came to the late Duchess of Portland, at whose sale Mr Edwards became the owner for 215 guineas. It was sold again in 1815 to the Marquis of Blandford for £687, 15s. Sir John Tobin is now the possessor.

These may be pronounced as fair general specimens of the talent of the ancient European bookbinders; time, damp, the worm, and religious zeal, having worked the destruction of the coverings of nearly all the early manuscripts, though to the latter must be attributed not only the scarcity of proof of what the bindings of these talented monks and artists were, but the entire loss of the books also. The mistaken zeal, enthusiasm, and bigotry of the early leaders of the Reformation, or of those they employed, swept away without distinction the works of the learned, with the books of devotion preserved in the religious houses, and deprived the world doubtless of many treasures now unknown. With these the bindings were of course destroyed, and even in cases where the book may have been preserved, the cupidity of many to whom the task of visiting the religious establishments was assigned, would lead them to divest them of the valuable ornaments with which we have shown many were enriched and decorated. Not only were the libraries completely sacked, but the huge volumes which contained the ancient services, and abounded in all the churches and monasteries, were destroyed without mercy, ardently and enthusiastically. Many of these had been brought direct from Rome, where a great manufactory of such works had for some centuries existed. An immense volume was laid upon the *lectra*, or reading-desk, in the middle of the choir, and the letters and musical notes which accompanied the words, were of such an enormous magnitude, and so black, that they could be read by the canons as they sat in their stalls, at as great a distance, and with as much ease, as an inscription on a monument. These ponderous volumes lay unmolested on the desk, or at the utmost were only carried to the adjoining sacristy, and were a part of the furniture, and almost of the fixtures, of the churches; they were exempt from injury and accident, and were frequently therefore of great antiquity, having been constructed in very remote times, when manuscripts of value were plentiful. They were garnished

with corners of brass, with bosses, and brass nails, to preserve the bindings from injury in being rubbed on the desk or pulpit, and protected from dust by massive clasps. Some, when very large, were, for further protection, laid upon rollers." It is now a matter of deep regret that many noble libraries belonging to monasteries were so entirely destroyed at the Reformation. Thousands of ancient treatises upon science, history, philosophy, and other subjects, were thus for ever lost to the world. Whole ship-loads of these books were sent abroad to be cut up into waste paper by foreign binders, and for a long period the shopkeepers of England used no other paper but wrapping up their huxtery wares than the remains of ancient libraries. In a history of the times, it is mentioned that a merchant purchased two noble libraries for forty shillings.

In the present day, while surrounded with all descriptions of books, purchasable at an easy price, we can hardly appreciate the blessing which the art of printing has been to mankind. In the olden times, books were so scarce that their possessors set the greatest value upon them, and took the utmost pains to preserve them from being carried off from their houses. In the old baronial castles, the ruins of which we now see in different parts of the country, there were generally only one or two books, and, to prevent their abstraction, they were chained to a table in the hall, where those who could read might go to peruse them. The practice of chaining books was also common at the universities, as appears from several passages from old records quoted by the author of the work now before us. "In an old account book of St John's College, Cambridge, is this entry: 'Anno 1556. For chaining for the books in this library, 10s. And among the articles for keeping the University library, Maie 1562—'If any chaine, clasps, rope, or such like decay happen to be, the sayd keeper to signify the same unto the vice-chancellor within three days after shall spy such default, to the end the same may be amended.' That books were frequently chained to desks we learn from Wood, who, in speaking of 'Foulis's history of the Plots and Conspiracies of the Presbyterians,' says, 'this book hath been so pleasing to the Royalists, that they have chained it to desks in public places for the vulgar to read.' Fox's Book of Martyrs was very generally chained in the churches; and long prior to its publication, many other books were in a like manner secured. Sir Thomas Lyttleton, knight, bequeathed, A.D. 1481, 'to the abbot and convent of Hales-Owen, a book wherein is contained the Constitutions Provincial and De Gestis Romanorum, and other treatises therein, which shall be laid and bound with an yron chayne in some convenient parte within the said church, at my cost, so that all preests and others may see and rede it when it pleaseth them.' In the church of Grantham, Lincolnshire, was a library remarkable for being one of the very few remaining that had its volumes chained to the shelves. The books here are now fast going to decay from neglect. There are about two hundred volumes, principally dignity, in various bindings of calf and vellum, with wooden boards or strong pasteboard. These books were formerly fixed to strong desks or benches, the ring at the end of the chain being attached to a bolt fastened to the shelves." Blessed, we may say, is the art of printing, which in process of time put an end to these practices; and as blessed are those prodigious improvements in the art, which, by means of machinery, have, within a very few years, placed the acquisition of printed sheets—the materials of reading and mental cultivation—within the power of all, even of the poorest classes of our fellow-creatures.

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